

Tyson Wash Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site Community Advisory Board Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.
Quartzsite Community Center
305 N. Plymouth Street
Quartzsite, Arizona

OU #07-050

CAB members present: Herman York (Chair), Audrey Berger, and Dale Schooley
Alternates present: Marilyn McFate

Members absent: Billy Rhoades, Walter Akin, Jean Winter and Jack Burris

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Chris Gamache (Project Manager), Linda Mariner (Community Involvement Coordinator), and Julie Riemenschneider (Remedial Projects Unit Manager)

Members of the public present: Dan Field (Quartzsite Town Manager), Wes Huntley, Jerome Berger, Carolyn Guthrie, Cecile Carnevale, and Hal Davidson.

The meeting began at 1:04 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and voted on at the meeting:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions -**
Mr. York opened the meeting. Introductions of Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, ADEQ staff, and members of the public were made.
- 2. Acceptance or changes to the April 5, 2006 draft minutes -**
Ms. Berger moved and Mr. Schooley seconded that the minutes be accepted. The minutes were unanimously accepted.
- 3. Update on Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring and Treatment System Activities -**
Chris Gamache, the project manager, presented a slide show that gave an update on the quarterly monitoring and sampling results for the May 2006 groundwater sampling event, reviewed the performance of the pump and treat system, and announced future activities.

Mr. Gamache had several slides showing maps of the site that demonstrated how the treatment system was working to pull the contaminated groundwater toward the system. The first slide showed that the groundwater naturally flows northwest toward the Tyson Wash until it gets close to Mr. York's property, and then it turns straighter north. When the treatment system is running, it pulls the groundwater away from that natural flow and toward the groundwater wells that are connected to the treatment system. The next slide showed the location of the highest concentrations of the PCE contamination. The PCE in the groundwater in the green shaded area on the map was measured to be above 100 µg/L (micrograms per liter) or parts per billion (ppb). Everything inside the blue shaded area was above 50 µg/L, and everything within the clear outside boundary was above 5 µg/L. Outside that line the groundwater tested below the aquifer water quality standard (5 µg/L) for PCE. A small arm of groundwater that is not contaminated on the eastern side of the plume area on the map shows that the treatment system is successfully working to reduce the plume.

Mr. Gamache reported that the pump and treat system continues to perform as it was designed to extract the contaminated groundwater, remove the PCE, and inject it back into the ground. It currently pumps at approximately 7 ½ gallons per minute from five extraction wells. Between April and June of 2006, 233,043 gallons of contaminated groundwater were treated. Since the initial start-up of the system in April 2003, over three million gallons of water have been treated.

Mr. Gamache stated that work is continuing on the feasibility study that looks at all possible treatment options to make sure that the treatment system currently being used is the best long-term remedy. He estimated that it would be completed by March 2007. There will be a 30 day public comment period for the community to review the feasibility study report and make comments. He also acknowledged that this week another groundwater sampling event was in progress at the site. The sampling will run from September 11 – 15, 2006, and he will have the results of that event for the next CAB meeting.

4. 2006 WQARF Registry Report – Linda Mariner, Community Involvement Coordinator

Ms. Mariner explained that state law requires ADEQ to produce and publish an annual registry report of all the WQARF sites in Arizona and their status for public information. Currently, there are 35 WQARF sites in Arizona. Everyone was encouraged to take a report for future reference.

5. Signing of CAB Charter – Herman York, Chair

Mr. York signed the revised CAB Charter that was approved at the last meeting.

6. Discussion and Voting on CAB Membership -

Mr. York reported that he had sent out letters to Jack Burris and Jean Winter giving them the option to continue as CAB members. He confirmed that neither one responded to the letters. Ms. Berger made a motion to remove them from the CAB. Mr. Loyet seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the termination of their CAB

membership. Ms. Mariner informed the CAB that Billy Rhoades had to resign because he was moving out of the area. Moving the alternates up to the status of official members was suggested. Mr. Loyet made the motion to move Marilyn McFate from alternate to CAB member. Mr. Schooley seconded the motion, and the CAB approved it.

7. Review of Updated Draft Community Involvement Plan (CIP) – Linda Mariner

Ms. Mariner opened up the discussion by asking the CAB to verify local information for the elected officials for Quartzsite and the community organizations. Additional information included in the CIP were two new local media contacts, a new fact sheet, updated ADEQ contact information, and the new local elected officials. The CAB added several other community organizations to the list which were: Quartzsite Improvement Community and both Quartzsite Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Mariner explained that nine members of the community were interviewed and their comments and concerns are included in the CIP. After consideration of the changes, Mr. Loyet made a motion to accept the changes in the CIP, and Ms. Berger seconded the motion. The CAB voted to accept the updated CIP so that it could be sent to ADEQ management for final approval.

8. Call to the Public –

Hal Davidson, Town of Quartzsite Councilman, read a personal statement of his opinion about ADEQ in regards to an odor complaint against the Pilot Truck Stop in Quartzsite. His statement reflected his dissatisfaction with the actions taken by ADEQ in responding to the terrible fumes coming from the Pilot Truck Stop both day and night. He did not believe that ADEQ has acted appropriately in protecting the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Quartzsite who live downwind and downstream of the truck stop. He also showed photos of contamination in the wash that runs beside the Pilot Truck Stop.

He disagreed with the fact that ADEQ has accepted the results of the Pilot Truck Stop's own soil sampling on their property as reported by Cynthia Campbell, ADEQ Water Quality Compliance Manager in a letter to Mr. Davidson. He believed this was like having the "fox watch the henhouse". He believed that an outside independent contractor should be doing any sampling there. Ms. Riemenschneider took a copy of Mr. Davidson's statement and photos to do a follow-up with the Water Quality Division.

Carolyn Guthrie, Town of Quartzsite Councilmember, asked how the people were chosen who were interviewed. Ms. Mariner responded that a CIP Update Questionnaire was sent out to the Tyson Wash WQARF Site mailing list asking for comments, concerns, and other information relating to the site. One of the questions specifically asked if they would agree to be contacted by phone with further questions. Of the 14 responses that were mailed back to ADEQ, seven people responded affirmatively to being contacted by phone. Ms. Guthrie requested a copy of the CIP, and Ms. Mariner said that she could get one after the CIP was finalized. Ms. Guthrie also asked if the two Quartzsite Chambers of Commerce were included on the mailing list. Ms. Mariner responded that she would put them on the mailing list and include them in the community organization list in the CIP.

Ms. Guthrie then asked for further explanation of what the number “5” meant on the slide with the map illustrating PCE concentration. Mr. Gamache explained what the Aquifer Water Quality Standard (AWQS) is and that the AWQS for PCE is 5 ppb (or 5 µg/L). The goal of remediation at Tyson Wash WQARF site is to remediate groundwater to levels below the AWQS.

Mr. Wes Huntley asked if any of the contamination has spread. Mr. Gamache answered that the initial treatment system cleaned up the area around the Welcome R.V. Park domestic well, but during that time, the plume did spread slightly. The treatment system was expanded in October of 2005, and it has succeeded in decreasing the plume size.

Mr. Schooley wanted to verify his understanding that if the PCE level in the groundwater was under 5 ppb, then it was safe to drink. Mr. Gamache confirmed that there were no health concerns if it was measured to be 5 ppb or under. ADEQ’s goal is to clean the groundwater to that level. Mr. Gamache could not give a definite estimate on how long the cleanup would take for the site because conditions are different, but he stated that there is an average “textbook” timeframe of 20 years for most WQARF sites. He also stressed the importance of cleaning up the groundwater even though everyone in town was currently hooked up to the municipal water system.

Mr. Dan Field, Town Manager for Quartzsite, asked if ADEQ has suggested legislation that requires the capping of private wells that could be contaminated when the owners are hooked into a municipal water system. Mr. Gamache replied that the individual towns and cities have the jurisdiction for wellhead protection. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has jurisdiction only in an Active Management Area (AMA) such as Phoenix and Tucson.

Ms. Berger was concerned about protecting the water rights that property owners have over their own wells to prevent anyone from restricting that water use. Mr. Gamache reported that ADWR only has authority over an Active Management Area in the larger municipalities.

Ms. Guthrie asked if the cleanup of the Tyson Wash WQARF site will take longer if people are using their domestic wells near the site. Mr. Gamache agreed that it definitely affects the plume cleanup when other wells are significantly pulling the groundwater away from the treatment system.

Ms. Cecile Carnevale asked if ADEQ does any testing of the water coming into the Tyson Wash after heavy rains from the Pilot Truck Stop and other areas. Mr. Gamache explained that ADEQ has a separate division that monitors surface water runoff, and because of that, unfortunately, he didn’t have any information on that situation. Many of the residents in the meeting had comments about how bad the runoff contaminants were from the Pilot Truck Stop. Mr. Gamache assured the residents that stormwater doesn’t flow into any of the site’s monitoring wells because the wells have watertight caps.

Mr. Schooley expressed the CAB's past concerns about the 4-Corners site, ADOT's station, Ted's Truck Stop, and other contaminated properties in Quartzsite. Mr. Gamache addressed those concerns by relaying the information that he was able to research in response to the request from the last CAB meeting. He stated that he found several contaminated and remediated sites in the underground storage tank (UST) database in the 4 Corners area. He reported his findings on Steve's Gas and Go/Dolly's Restaurant, Quick Check, and ADOT to the CAB on the progress on those sites.

9. Future meeting plans -

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 was set as a tentative date for the next CAB meeting. This date was agreed on by the board, and agenda items discussed for the next meeting included: 1) Presentation on the completed draft feasibility study report, 2) Update on quarterly monitoring and treatment system activities, 3) Finalized 2006 CIP, and 4) Discussion of CAB member applications.

10. Adjournment -

Ms. Berger moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. York seconded it at 2:06 p.m. It was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 2:06 p.m.